



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB123 - Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug–In Electric Drive Vehicles
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Hearing Date: February 2, 2023

Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB123.

HB 123 is intended to provide an additional benefit to owners of plug–in electric vehicles (EVs) by allowing them to get a permit from the Motor Vehicle Administration to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

Transportation is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland, and expanding the use of EVs is a large part of the solution. While there are incentives for purchasing an EV, these incentives alone may not spur a car buyer to purchase an EV. Allowing EV owners to obtain an HOV sticker is an easy, low-cost additional incentive. Furthermore, commuters in gas-powered cars contribute to air pollution. By converting more of these vehicles to electric the levels of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation can be reduced. HB123 thoughtfully includes a requirement to review how this benefit for EV owners will impact commuters and HOV lane users more generally. The intent is not to give single person occupancy drivers a benefit that exacerbates congestion, but to recognize an opportunity to incentive the purchase of EVs.

We support HB123 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.